

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/072,726

Examiner

Carlos Lopez

Applicant(s)

KUK ET AL.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Interview on 9/2/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 February 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/3/04 .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Farrell on 9/2/04.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been rewritten to read as follows:

1(Currently Amended). A draw tower for optical fiber producing systems

comprising:

~~[[,]] the draw tower supporting~~ **at least one of** a preform feed unit, a furnace, a spinning nozzle, a diameter gauge, and a coating unit ;

~~thereon, the draw tower comprising:~~

a plurality of vertical frames assembled in stacked relation, each of said frames consisting of a column vertically erected at each corner to form a square structure, a plurality of horizontal beams horizontally extending between upper ends and lower ends of the columns, and a cantilever beam diagonally connected between each of said columns;

the cantilever beam of at least one upper frame of said plurality of frames has a cross-sectional area smaller than that of a cantilever beam of a lower frame of said plurality of frames, thus reducing weight of an upper part of said draw tower;

and the columns of at least one lower frame of said plurality of frames each having walls of increased thickness with respect to the columns of the upper part of the draw tower, thus reinforcing a lower part of the draw tower in addition to preventing vibration of the draw tower wherein a support structure is provided at a lowest-most frame of the draw tower for additionally supporting the lower part of the draw tower.

Claim 7 has been rewritten to read as follows:

7 (Currently Amended). A draw tower for optical fiber producing systems

comprising:

at least one of a preform feed unit, a furnace, a spinning nozzle, a diameter gauge, and a coating unit ;

the draw tower having a plurality of frame structures, the frame structures having a substantially cubic shape including at least one cantilever beam between columns of the frame structure,

an uppermost frame structure having at least one cantilever beam with a cross-sectional area smaller than a cross-sectional area of cantilever beams of a bottommost frame structure, and

columns of the bottommost frame structure being thicker than columns of the uppermost frame structure.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the cited prior art fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical fiber draw tower having at least one of a preform feed unit, a furnace, a spinning nozzle, a diameter gauge, and a coating unit in combination with a plurality of frames wherein an upper frame structure having at least one cantilever beam with a cross-sectional area smaller than a cross-sectional area of cantilever beams of a bottom frame structure, and columns of the bottom frame structure being thicker than columns of the upper frame structure. The closest prior art, JP 02-069330A, teaches of providing powdered or liquid filled pipes to reduce the vibrations of the tower, but fails to disclose or reasonably suggest an optical fiber draw tower having a plurality of frames wherein an upper frame structure having at least one cantilever beam with a cross-sectional area smaller than a cross-sectional area of cantilever beams of a bottom frame structure, and columns of the bottom frame structure being thicker than columns of the upper frame structure

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The references in pages 1-2 of PTO-892 have been cited to show the state of the art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 1731

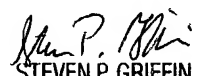
accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lopez whose telephone number is 571.272.1193. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571.272.1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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